

**U.S. Department of Justice** 

United States Attorney
Western District of New York

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## PRESS RELEASE

APRIL 28, 2005

RE: <u>UNITED STATES v. RONNIE FUNDERBURK</u>

United States Attorney Michael A. Battle announced today a six (6) count Indictment, charging Ronnie Funderburk, a Buffalo Police Officer, of Buffalo, New York, with conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute and to distribute 5 kilograms or more of cocaine, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 846 carrying a mandatory minimum penalty of 10 years and a maximum penalty of life imprisonment, a fine of \$4,000.00, or both. It should be noted that the fact that a defendant has been charged with a crime . . . is merely an accusation and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty. (Disciplinary Rule 7-107(B)(6)).

Assistant U.S. Attorney Mary Clare Kane stated that the Indictment charges Funderburk with conspiracy to possess quantities of cocaine with intent to distribute,

carrying a minimum penalty of 10 years imprisonment and maximum penalty of life imprisonment, a fine of \$4,000,000, or both.

The Indictment was the culmination of an investigation on the part of the Drug Enforcement Administration, under the direction of Mark T. Peterson, Resident Agent In Charge.

Funderburk was initially charged by Criminal Complaint in August of 2004. He is now indicted along with 34 other co-conspirators, including his brother in-law Frederick Nolley, Jr. Funderburk was suspended from the Buffalo Police Force as a result of these criminal charges.

The evidence was presented to the Grand Jury by Mary Clare Kane, Assistant United States Attorney, who will handle the trial of the case.

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